

## Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, EIND, ETRD, GW, WB

SUBJ: ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICH'S SPEAKS ON ENERGY  
POLICY AT OPENING OF GERMAN INDUSTRIES FAIR

REF: CERP D

SUMMARY: GERMAN INDUSTRIES FAIR 196 OPENED AT  
BERLIN SEPT 18 WITH ADDRESSES BY FEDERAL ECONOMICS  
MINISTER AND PRESIDENT OF GERMAN INDUSTRY FEDERATION (BDI). LATTER'S REMARKS BEING REPORTED  
SEPARATELY.) MINISTER FRIDERICH'S RECITED GERMAN  
ENERGY POLICY, NOTING NEED TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON  
PETROLEUM AND TO INCREASE USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN  
ELECTRIC-POWER PRODUCTION. GERMANS HOPE TO REDUCE  
DEPENDENCE ON OIL FROM PRESENT 52 PCT TO 40-44 PCT  
BY 1985. END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS SPEECH AT OPENING OF THE 1976 GERMAN  
INDUSTRIES FAIR, THEME OF WHICH IS ENERGY, ECONOMICS  
MINISTER FRIDERICH'S DEALT MAINLY WITH FRG ENERGY  
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POLICY. WITH ELECTION ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY, HOW-

EVER, HE DEVIATED FROM THEME LONG ENOUGH TO NOTE GENERALLY GOOD STATE OF GERMAN ECONOMY, COMPARING IT FAVORABLY WITH THOSE OF CERTAIN NEIGHBORING STATES, AND TO CRITICIZE DRAWING OF EAST-WEST TRADE INTO POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. FRIDERICH'S ALSO RESPONDED TO REMARKS OF DR. SOHL, PRESIDENT OF BDI, WHO AS PREVIOUS SPEAKER HAD EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION FROM POINT OF VIEW OF GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS WITH INDUSTRY'S PROFIT SITUATION, HIGH PROPORTION OF GNP IN PUBLIC SECTOR, UNFAVORABLE TAX POLICY, THIRD-WORLD ECONOMIC DEMANDS, AND OTHERS.

2. FRIDERICH'S NOTED FRG ENERGY DEMAND HAS BEEN DOWN PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, BUT ONLY BECAUSE OF RECESSION, AND SAID DEMAND IS NOW RISING AGAIN WITH ECONOMIC RECOVERY. HE RECITED DANGERS OF FRG DEPENDENCE ON PETROLEUM, WHICH HAS DECLINED SLIGHTLY FROM 1973/74 LEVEL OF 53 PCT TO PRESENT 52 PCT. HE ESTIMATED DEPENDENCE COULD BE FURTHER REDUCED TO 40-44 PCT BY 1985 WITH CONTINUATION OF PRESENT POLICIES. IN DEPARTURE FROM PREPARED TEXT, FRIDERICH'S SAID FRG IS AIMING AT REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON ANY ONE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRY TO 15 PCT MAXIMUM, AND NOTED INTEREST IN DRAWING ON NORWEGIAN OIL FROM FURTHER DIVERSIFICATION OF SOURCES. OIL MUST INCREASINGLY BE RESERVED FOR UNSUBSTITUTABLE USES, SUCH AS IN TRANSPORTATION AND PETROCHEMICALS. DEPENDENCE ON OIL CAN BE REDUCED ONLY BY WIDER USE OF COAL, GAS AND PARTICULARLY NUCLEAR ENERGY.

3. AGAIN DEPARTING FROM TEXT, FRIDERICH'S MADE EARNEST PLEA FOR RAPID EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR POWER, SAYING THAT FRG'S FUTURE ELECTRIC-POWER REQUIREMENTS CANNOT BE MET WITHOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY. NOTING THAT FRG NOW HAS 3,500 MW OF NUCLEAR POWER IN OPERATION AND FURTHER 13,000 MW HAS BEEN LICENSED FOR CONSTRUCTION, FRIDERICH'S SAID NUCLEAR LICENSING PROCEDURE MUST BE SPEEDED UP DESPITE DIFFICULTIES INHERENT IN FRG'S FEDERAL SYSTEM. HE RECOGNIZED HOW SENSITIVE TOPIC HAS BECOME, CITING NUCLEAR ISSUE IN SWEDISH ELECTION

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CAMPAIGN, BUT SAID SAFETY COULD BE SATISFACTORILY HANDLED. FRIDERICH'S SAID IT IS NOT FRG GOAL TO SAVE ENERGY AT EXPENSE OF JOBS OR ECONOMIC GROWTH, BUT ENCOURAGED INDUSTRY TO IMPROVE PROFITABILITY BY DEVELOPING MORE RATIONAL ENERGY PROCESSES AND MACHINERY. GEORGE

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